

Wisconsin Implementation of 2002 Farm Bill Provisions

Policy changes made to date:

October 1, 2002

- Graduated standard deduction (section 4102)
- Increased asset limit for households that include a disabled FS applicant (section 4107)
- Reinstatement of federal FS eligibility for qualified aliens that receive a disability benefit (section 4401)
- Mandatory Standard Utility Allowance so utility expense pro-ratio is no longer required (section 4104)

January 1, 2003

- Exclusion of Student Financial Aid as counted income (section 4102)

March 1, 2003

- FS Application available as downloadable document from DHFS web site (section 4114). Available in English, Spanish, Hmong, and Russian.

April 1, 2003

- Reinstatement of federal FS eligibility for qualified aliens who have lived in the U.S. and had qualified status for at least 5 years (section 4401)

May 1, 2003

- Exclusion of real property as a counted asset (section 4107)

July 26, 2003

- Implementation of simplified change reporting policy for FS households certified for 6 months (section 4109)

October 1, 2003

- Reinstatement of federal FS eligibility for qualified aliens under age 18 regardless of date of entry into U.S. (section 4401)

Policy changes planned for near future:

February 2004

- Transitional Benefit Option (section 4115)
- Implementation of 12 month certification periods with 6 month interim change reporting for most FS households

Options to be considered if system automation* becomes available:

- Simplified determination of deductions (section 4106)
- Child Support payments made considered as income exclusion instead of income deduction (section 4101)

* System automation required to prevent benefit errors